

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
CITY OF LAS VEGAS URBAN FORESTRY INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the important role of trees within the urban environment, sometimes referred to as the “urban forest”; and

WHEREAS, the urban forest provides numerous economic, social and environmental benefits; and

WHEREAS, an urban forestry initiative will enhance citizen awareness, build neighborhood unity, foster community pride and promote civic trust; and

WHEREAS, an urban forestry initiative will provide opportunities for public-private partnerships with businesses and nonprofit organizations to maximize resources, expand funding opportunities, and increase the urban tree canopy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it desirable to develop partnerships with public institutions, regulatory agencies and regional bodies to broaden the possibilities for conducting research and analyzing the benefits of the urban forest in this part of the country; and

WHEREAS, an urban forestry initiative will contribute to the City’s long-term sustainability, as trees clean the air, improve stormwater management, conserve energy, improve public health, and increase property values; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified strategic priorities to create, integrate and manage orderly and sustainable development and growth of the community; to support and encourage sustainability, liveability, and pride in the City’s neighborhoods; and to promote healthy lifestyles for all segments of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Element of the 2020 Master Plan recommends the adoption of an urban forestry program to assure the protection, preservation and maintenance of mature trees, shrubs and decorative plantings within public parks, public rights-of-way and public facilities throughout the City for future generations; and

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2007, the City Council and Planning Commission attended a Joint Workshop on Sustainability; and

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2007, the City Council accepted the Joint Workshop

1 Report, with direction to the Planning and Development Department to develop programs to plant
2 more trees in City rights-of-way and in connection with City facilities, and to provide assistance to
3 businesses and homeowners to plant more trees on private property; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the City Council has adopted a Climate Protection Resolution
5 (R-57-2006) expressing City support for programs and policies that, by 2012, will reduce
6 greenhouse gas emissions nationwide by 7% below 1990 levels; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the City has received recognition as a "Tree City USA" from the Arbor
8 Day Foundation for the past 15 years, and an urban forestry initiative will allow the City to maintain
9 this designation; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the City recently received a \$38,000 grant from the Nevada Division
11 of Forestry, along with a match in the amount of \$10,000 from the Southern Nevada Water
12 Authority, to inventory the urban forest.

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE**
14 **CITY OF LAS VEGAS** to adopt the City of Las Vegas Urban Forestry Initiative, with the
15 following goals:

- 16 1. Double the average tree canopy coverage to 20% by 2035.
17 2. Work with existing partners and develop new partnerships in order to ensure that urban forestry
18 remains a priority for the City and the Southern Nevada region.
19 3. Prepare an Urban Forest Management Plan.

20 PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this 7TH day of MAY, 2008.

21 CITY OF LAS VEGAS

22 BY 
23 OSCAR B. GOODMAN, Mayor

24 ATTEST:

25 
26 BEVERLY K. BRIDGES, CMO
City Clerk

27 APPROVED AS TO FORM

28  4-23-08
Date